GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1165
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2006
PESTICIDE RESIDUES IN SOFT DRINKS
Singh Shri Chandra Bhushan;Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan)

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre for Science and Environment had submitted any report on pesticide residues in soft drinks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c): The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) had released a Report on Analysis of Pesticide Residues in Soft Drinks.

In their report CSE had mentioned that a total of 57 soft drink samples of 11 brands were tested for organochlorine pesticides and organophosphorous pesticides. It has been further stated in the report that:-

Average concentration of total organochlorine was 6.97ppb in all the 57 samples.
Average concentration organophosphorous pesticides was 4.88ppb in all the 57 samples.
Average concentration of total pesticides detected in all 57 samples was 11.85 which is 24 times the BIS limit for total pesticide in soft drinks.

In order to examine the facts contained in the CSE Report on Analysis of Pesticide Residues in Soft Drinks, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare constituted on Expert Committee to examine the methodology of sampling, methodology of testing and validity, as well as the consistency of results derived by CSE. After detailed deliberation on the report of CSE, the Expert Committee concluded that the results and conclusions reached by the CSE in their report cannot be accepted on its face value. The detailed report of the Expert Committee is availabl on the website of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (www.mohfw.nic.in)
The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has already constituted a National Expert Committee to guide pesticide residue Sub-Committee in fixation of MRls of pesticides in carbonated beverages, fruits vegetables juices and other finished products.

State/UT Governments which are the implementing authorities under the PFA Act have been advised to ensure regular sampling of soft drinks to ensure quality standards are maintained.

A total of 155 soft drinks samples were tested by Central Food Labs at Kolkata, Mysore and Pune as well as State Food Lab, Gujarat between July, 2006 to September, 2006 and as per reports received from testing laboratories pesticide residues were found below the limits specified for bottled drinking water in all tested samples.